

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Today, because of media consolidation we have fewer opinions and views being expressed. When you turn on the evening news nowadays it doesn't matter which network you tune into because they are all reporting the same stories.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. The FCC made a terrible decision when it allowed large conglomerates to buy up all forms of media and causing our news to become censored and very biased. To get the real news you now have to rely on the foreign media and the web.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The American people have been done a great disservice because of greed and power. Until the Sinclair Broadcast Group are paying for the public airwaves they should not force their political views on the public. Thank you.